

July 23, 2012

To: All Interested Parties

The 2003 State Legislature passed statutes (77-2-361 through 367-MCA) authorizing the Department of Natural Resources and Conservation the ability to sell state trust land and utilize those funds to purchase replacement lands for the school trust through a process called Land Banking. The intent of the program is for the state to dispose of scattered tracts of land that generally do not have legal access, generate substantially less income for the trust than their relative value or are difficult for the Department to manage, to then purchase property that is blocked or contiguous to state land, has legal access, has potential for increased Trust revenue and consequently is more efficient to manage. The statute placed limits on the amount of Trust Land that can be sold under Land Banking. The 2009 Legislature expanded the original authority. The Board may not cumulatively sell or dispose of more than 250,000 acres of state land.

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation (DNRC) is considering the sale of the tract of State School Trust land listed below.

We are currently conducting an analysis under the Montana Environmental Policy Act, of the impacts that may occur as a result of the proposed land sale. The analysis is to be completed prior to presenting a proposal to the Board for preliminary approval. If approval is received from the Board, the Department would then conduct appraisals to determine an estimated value and recommended minimum bid price for each tract proposed for sale. The list would then be brought back before the Board to establish the minimum acceptable bid for each tract and approval to proceed with the sale process.

By this letter, DNRC is requesting comments under the Montana Environmental Policy Act regarding the possible sale of this tract. Comments will be considered if received no later than August 31, 2012, and may be sent to:

D.J. Bakken  
Central Land Office  
8001 North Montana Avenue  
Helena, MT 59602  
OR  
Email: [foresterdj@mt.gov](mailto:foresterdj@mt.gov)

If you have further questions you may call me at 406-458-3512.

Sincerely,



D.J. BAKKEN  
Helena Unit Manager  
Central Land Office

**Tract Being Considered for Sale**

**The tract being considered is surrounded by private ownerships and has no general public access.**

County	Legal	Acres
Jefferson	W ½ sec 16, T2N, R1W	320

# Erb Land Banking Proposal

W 1/2 sec. 16, T2N, R1W

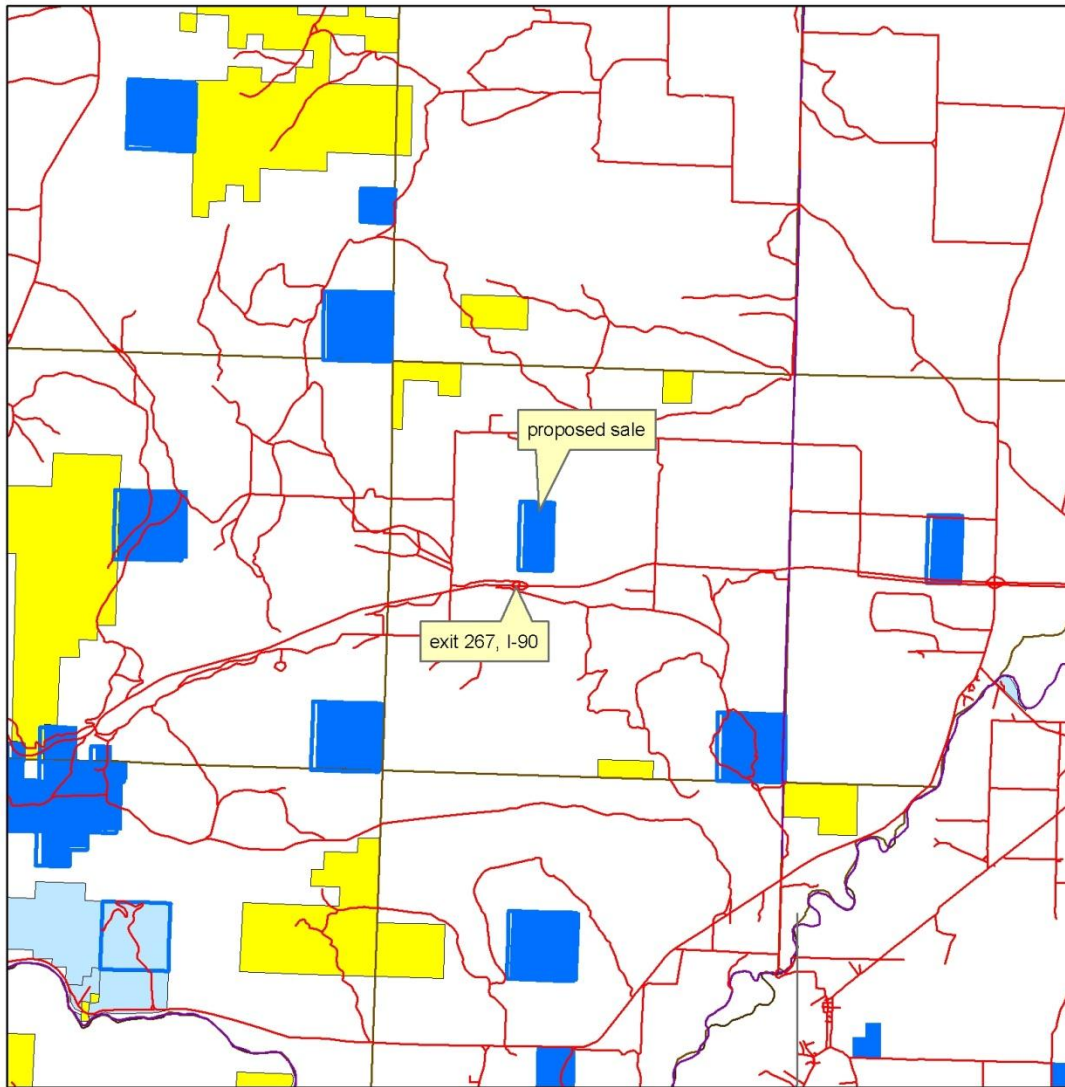


0 0.125 0.25 0.5 0.75 1 Miles



# Erb Land Banking Proposal

W 1/2 sec. 16, T2N, R1W



0 1 2 4 6 8 Miles

